



STATE OF INDIANA  
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Excise Officers Arrest 41, Seize \$3M in Eight Cities**

**LAWRENCEBURG, Ind. (Sept. 25)** – Indiana State Excise Police officers are still processing evidence seized from 13 businesses, four residences and two vehicles in eight cities across Indiana yesterday.

Excise officers served 41 arrest warrants and 18 search warrants yesterday after an 18-month investigation looking into corrupt business influence, conspiracy to commit corrupt business influence, money laundering, identity theft, forgery, perjury and theft.

As a result of yesterday's searches, excise officers seized roughly \$3 million in U.S. currency, 12 vehicles and an undisclosed amount of foreign currency. They are continuing to look for additional suspects.

Excise police officers have been investigating Acapulco Mexican restaurants in Batesville, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Aurora and Versailles.

They also searched the offices of a tax-preparation service in Greenwood, Ind., two banks in Lafayette, Ind., and five other banks in southeast Indiana.

Those arrested yesterday have been held at the Dearborn County Jail pending hearings today.

"Yesterday's arrests and seizures demonstrate of how the regulatory responsibilities of the state excise police often lead to other criminal violations," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "The collaboration between our agency, the Dearborn County Prosecutor and local law enforcement agencies was crucial to the success of this case."

Excise officers have been assisted throughout their investigation by the Dearborn County Special Crimes Unit, Dearborn County Sheriff's Office, Lawrenceburg Police Department and the Indiana Department of Revenue.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related violations.

*All criminal and administrative-law defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*